
Health Care & Wellness Committee

HB 3006

Brief Description: Clarifying the circumstances under which certain counseling-related associates may practice.

Sponsors: Representative Green.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Clarifies the circumstances under which counseling-related associates may practice.

Hearing Date: 1/26/10

Staff: Jim Morishima (786-7191).

Background:

In 2008 legislation was passed relating to the practice of counseling. The legislation eliminated the credential of Registered Counselor as of July 1, 2010, and created new credentials for Agency Affiliated Counselors, Certified Advisors, and Certified Counselors. The legislation also created associate licenses for individuals pursuing full licensure as social workers, mental health counselors, or marriage and family therapists. Associates must have a graduate degree and be working toward meeting the supervised experience requirements for full licensure. Associates may not practice independently for a fee and must work under the supervision of an approved supervisor.

Summary of Bill:

An associate may only practice as employees of a public or private agency, institution, or incorporated clinic to acquire the experience hours necessary for full licensure. An associate may not provide services under any other circumstances for a fee or as a volunteer, including private practice. An associate must meet with his or her approved supervisor, who must document the overall experience hours required for full licensure.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested 1/20/2010.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.